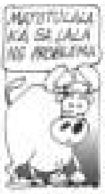
Al-Qaida owns Turkey blasts, vows attacks in Japan Story on Page A18



RP woes leave Copa speechless

By Christian V. Esguerra

IN A country where neither side of the power spectrum accepts the other side's rule, the politics of

A2

No out-of-court settlement–Palace

DID he or didn't he?

The Agence France Presse yesterday reported that, according to Cabinet Secretary Ricardo Saludo, the President was considering out-of-court settlements of cases involving her political rivals.

But Saludo denied making any such statement. In an "urgent media release" circulated last night, the Palace also is-

A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Tuesday, November 18, 2003 • 28 pages • vol. 18 • no. 342 website: www.inq7.net

Estrada defends GMA

FPJ, Ping held secret meeting 4 days ago

By Christine O. Avendaño

MOVIE star Fernando Poe Jr. may be serious after all about seeking the presidency.

Poe met with Sen. Panfilo Lacson four days ago at the actor's residence in Greenhills, San Juan, the Inquirer learned yesterday.

Lacson has declared that he is running for president in next year's polls, while Poe has yet to announce whether he will make himself available as a presidential candidate for the opposition.

When contacted by the Inquirer, Lacson and Sen. Vicente Sotto, whom Poe had designated as his spokesperson, confirmed that the meeting took place on Nov. 14. Lacson said he had sent an invitation to Poe last month for a meeting and that on Thursday Poe asked for a meeting with him.

Lacson did not want to say what he and Poe talked about in what the senator described as a long meeting. "It was a meeting between two decent human beings," was what Lacson would say to tell the Inquirer.

Sotto said he knew about the Poe-Lacson meeting but, like Lac-

FPJ, PING A6



A DOOR explodes as soldiers from the Philippine Army's Light Reaction Company assault a building to simulate a hostage situation during a live-fire demonstration on Monday in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija.

Kindness, not politics, but Erap denies deal

By Armand N. Nocum, Juliet L. Javellana and Carlito Pablo

HUMAN kindness, and not politics.

Deposed President Joseph Estrada yesterday defended President Macapagal-Arroyo's support for his request for US-based medical treatment as an act of compassion—even though it came almost three years late.

"Finally she was enlightened and I am grateful for her being compassionate now," Estrada said, adding, however, that he would have appreciated the conciliatory gesture if it had been made more than two years ago.

But Estrada strongly denied reports that he had struck a deal with the Macapagal administration.

"I will not enter into any deal with this administration. I have suffered so much already," he said. He was arrested in April 2001 on plunder and graft charges filed against him in the Sandiganbayan.

"In fairness to GMA, there is no truth to reports of any deal. There can be no agreement because my cases are tried on merit. I will never accept any pardon because I have not committed any crime," said Estrada.

But Estrada's wife, Sen. Luisa Ejercito Estrada, lauded Ms Macapagal's timing.

She said the Estrada family had been urging Ms Macapagal and her officials to grant the request, but she had not budged. "Ngayong election na, pupuy na sila (Now that it's election season, the administration supports the idea)," she said.

ESTRADA A6

Slum folk wooed for another Makati rally



US Ambassador Ricciardone, (left), US Ambassador-at-large Black and Maj. Gen. Braganza cover their ears while watching a live-fire exercise above.

By Christian V. Esguerra and TJ Burgonio

WHILE Malacañang's total mobilization plan continues to falter, groups identified with the political opposition are silently regrouping for another mass action.

Two ranking Philippine National Police officials yesterday confirmed that the groups were recruiting protesters from slums in Metro Manila and neighboring provinces, particularly in Southern Tagalog, to join a massive protest action similar to last week's Ayala Avenue demonstration.

In Metro Manila, one police official said, recruitment was particularly intense in Payatas in Quezon City and the Baseco compound in Manila, known bailiwicks of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Residents were being offered money, the other official said, but he did not elaborate. In last week's rally, protesters admitted to the police that they had been paid anywhere from P150 to P500 to join the mass action.

Once the organizers have gathered enough warm bodies, the second official said, organizers and their recruits would again march to key areas such as the Makati financ-

SLUM FOLK A6

4.2M ready to vote for first time

By Martin Rosales Marfil

A TOTAL of 4.2 million first-time voters registered with the Commission on Elections by the end of the registration period for first-time voters and transferees on Nov. 9. The voters' registration and validation period started on Aug. 4.

The Comelec disclosed yesterday that 11.2 million voters registered or verified their applications as of Nov. 11, representing about 25 percent of the country's estimated 43 million voters. Of the 11.2 million, 7 million had their registration validated.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos said that the 11.2 million did not include the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. Lo-

COMELEC A6

Baguio's green culture braces for business boom, ad congress

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The country's summer capital today is a bustling metropolis whose cold climate has been warmed over by hourly traffic jams, and a concrete envelope of towering buildings and five shopping malls.

This is the sight that will greet delegates to the 18th Philippine Advertising Congress, which the city is hosting for the second time in the last 10 years.

To make way for "progress," most of the pine trees have been pushed back to the city fringes.

But the city government is embarking on a concept called "green economics," which intends to marry the new businesses being drawn to the country's coolest city with its environmentally delicate attractions.

"There are new environmental controls being set up that will allow Baguio to absorb the inflow of huge businesses pouring in," said Vic Aquintania, a planning officer who has devoted much of his career to bolstering energy conservation and environmental management policies for the city.

Aquintania cited the SM City Baguio shopping mall, which will

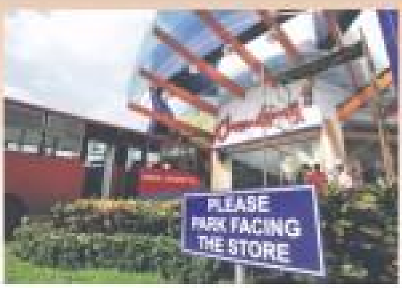
BAGUIO A6



WYCOCO: Calls to resign unfair. We did our job.



TORRES to Strunk: Laugh now, I will have mine later.





DRIVE THROUGH
There is no drive-thru lane in this fast-food restaurant at the corner of Edsa Extension and President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard but a wayward bus plowed into the store on Monday morning, leaving at least 10 people injured. The driver fled.

Nida's daughter slams NBI, DOJ

By Volt Contreras, Luige del Puerto and Philip C. Tubeza

"WHAT a drama! The support I needed had to come from an American."

No longer a tearful orphan, Kaye Torres, the only child of slain actress Nida Blanca, yesterday emerged prepared for "a battle" not just for justice for her mother's brutal murder but against officials whom she accused of bungling the extradition case in the United States against the prime suspect, Blanca's American husband Phil Lauren Strunk.

Flanked by lawyer Harriet Demetriou and members of the extended family, Torres said at a press conference that if the continuing word war between her and the Department of Justice and National Bureau of Investiga-

NIDA A6

Second FRONTPAGE

'Villaruel could have used finger to detonate bomb'

HE COULD have used his finger to detonate explosives.



RP antiterror drive draws US cheers, militants' jeers

Marcoses' proposal on mediation junked

APPEAL TO THE PRESIDENT

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Malacanang Palace
Manila

Her Excellency,

In 1998, Congress passed Republic Act No. 8479, otherwise known as the "Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act" aimed at creating an environment where competition may thrive with the entry of new participants. The law has generated sufficient interest because, to date, there are approximately 200 independent Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) refilling plants.

The employment opportunities created by these independent refilling plants cannot be overlooked. Each LPG refilling plant directly employs about 50 individual workers or approximately 10,000 workers. And each of these refilling plants has an average of 2,000 retailers (dealers and outlets) or a total of 400,000 retailers, whose respective families depend in some degree on the income derived from the LPG retail business.

The benefit of deregulation is the impact on the price of LPG, which needless to say, is a basic commodity for most households. Due to the increasing share in the market of the independent LPG refillers, the alternative price they offer has caused prices to stabilize. This price is generally lower than that of the oil majors because of the discount from bulk purchases and lower overhead expenses.

It is not true that the lower prices of independent LPG refillers and marketers are due to defective cylinders. While independent LPG refillers and marketers had been heavily investing in the purchase of LPG cylinders, the oil majors have recycled these cylinders by name plating of their respective marks. Thus, some of the cylinders being used by the oil majors are owned by the independent LPG refillers and marketers, and any issue as to safety should be readily discounted. Besides, the act of name plating could be unsafe and not provided by law passed by Congress.

Recently, however, the independent LPG refillers and marketers are experiencing undue harassment from a few sectors of the government. Law enforcement agencies such as the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) of the PNP and Task Force Jericho of the DILG have intensified efforts to flag down delivery trucks and in conducting illegal search and seizure of the establishment of independent LPG refillers and marketers without proper coordination with the Department of Energy. The same law enforcement agencies, including the PNP in general, had been slow, however, in responding to four (4) incidents of hold-ups inside establishments of refillers and marketers during the last four (4) months. This does not include numerous hold-ups of their delivery trucks.

This matter had been properly brought to the attention of the Department of Energy and other concerned agencies, but the same remain unabated. The independent LPG refillers and marketers perceive that the bias in favor of the oil majors and against the independent LPG refillers and marketers are intended to eliminate competition. This very well defeats the essence of deregulation. The independent LPG refillers and marketers would like to bring directly to the attention of Her Excellency the issues and concerns that affect them, in order that the same may be properly addressed for the greater benefit of public welfare.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas Marketers Association
(LPGMA)

Customs admits corruption in bonded warehouses

Tarad was right

Closed







Nida's daughter slams NBI, DOJ



Own money

Senate probe

DOJ did its best

REAL ESTATE

Developers defend position on land use bill



A vigorous mass housing will create more jobs and livelihood prospects, particularly for the poorer sector within urban and rural areas

AS THE COUNTRY strives to find solutions to the sprawling pattern of land development that is leapfrogging across the landscape, promising control measures, among them providing for a rational, holistic and just allocation, utilization, management and development of the country's land resources as proposed in the pending bill—the National Land Use Act of the Philippines—have been welcomed but with caution by land developers.

Just allocation

Stimulating the economy

Institutionalizing land use

CLUP as tool

"MUG"-NEGOSYO!

Roco kin says he was ex-solon's bagman

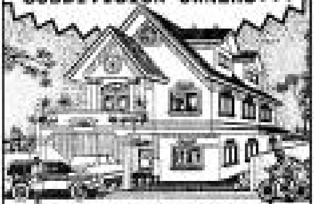
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Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

D. Guevarra; 81



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John Robert Powers

Gordon plan will create C. Luzon hub

Senate honors Joe Burgos

The Daily Gospel





Estrada defends GMA



Legal strategy

Iglesia ni Cristo

Senate voice

House reaction

Palace hopes

No out-of-court settlement—Palace

Slum folk wooed for another Makati rally

AFP reminder

FPJ, Ping held secret meeting 4 days ago

4.2M ready to vote for first time

Baguio's green culture braces for business boom

Ad congress

Biggest asset

Student population

Air pollution

Green campaign

RP woes leave Copa ...

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The WORLD

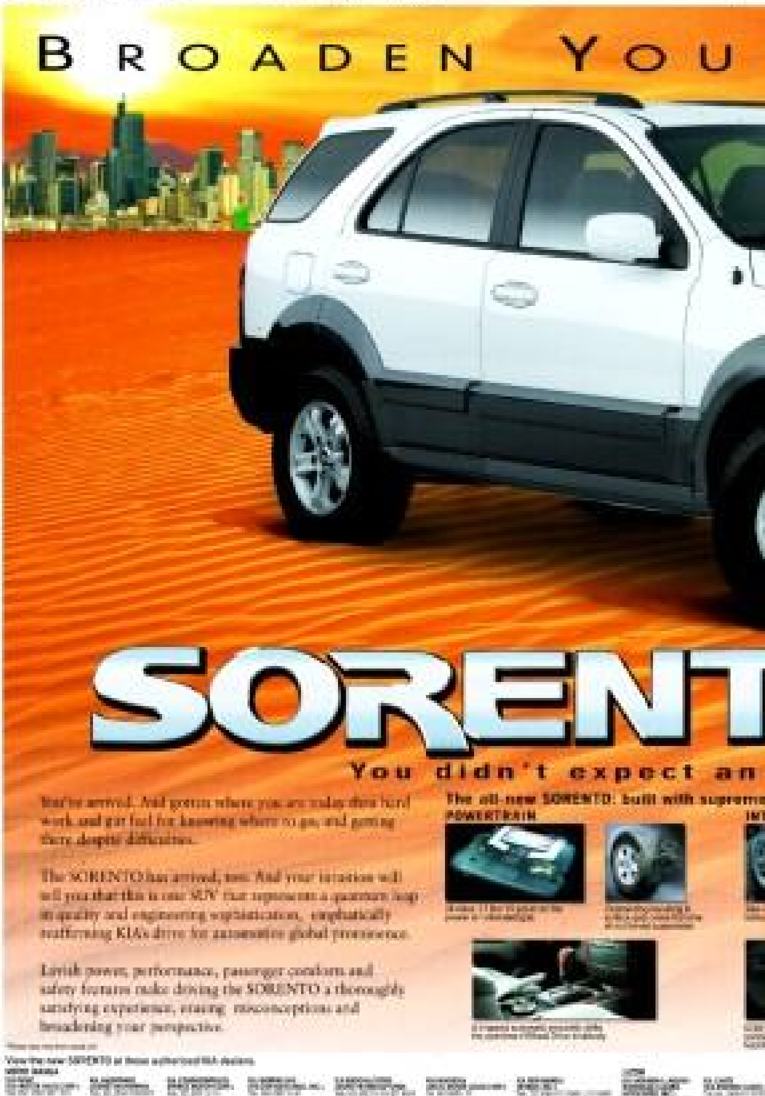
Al-Qaida owns Turkey blasts, vows attacks in Japan, others



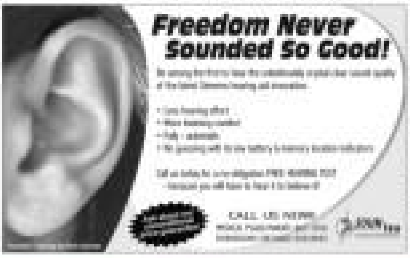
MISS WORLD BEAUTIES

'Saddam tape' urges Iraqis to fight US

Thaksin: Thai boat deserved to be sunk



Colombia blasts kill woman, hurt 72



Microsoft doubles R&D fund



Schwarzenegger faces greatest adversary



WorldBriefs

French UN worker killed

New bioweapons

Chopstick in man's face

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Accommodation

EDITORIALS

World-class



GMA has no authority to let Erap go abroad

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Postscript to a tragedy

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

More good news

POLITICAL TIDBITS



Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

Equal but not equal

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

For under the Christmas tree: 2 books

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY



Manila Bay sunset rediscovered

YOUNG BLOOD

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

Time to abolish the Judiciary Development Fund?

LETTERS

Body counts

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

JCB CHARGE SPREE, CASH for FREE! Get a chance to win P50,000 free credit when you use your JCB Credit Card!





BANKARD
Equitable
CARD

Across the NATION

More feared missing in sinking

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—More people were believed to have gone missing at sea when a cargo vessel sank near Cuyo, Palawan at the height of tropical storm "Weng" on Friday.

Masbate folk rally against P340-M loan

Town hall loses power over P7.8-M debt

GMA lets Cotabato City be center of C. Mindanao

Protests grow over proposed coal-fired plant

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

BCDA to award highway contracts next year

Countdown for justice

NAPILE

ROUNDUP

Rebs burn equipment

Outstanding farmer

'Hot' logs seized

Drug dealer nabbed

Kidnapper gets life term

5 nabbed for drugs

P68.8-M project launched by GMA tagged illegal



WINNING HEARTS

Farmers disown move to stop rice import program

Batangas provincial board suspends mayor who stopped village road plan



Underpaid teachers pray for pension

By Tarra Quismundo

[illegible]

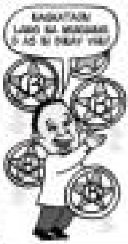
Pity those Ayala protesters

ON TARGET



Ramon Tulfo

[illegible]



It doesn't stand for Binay

[illegible]

MetroBriefs

Girl raped, strangled

[illegible]

Runaway driver

[illegible]

Mystery SUV

[illegible]

Singing ambassadors

[illegible]

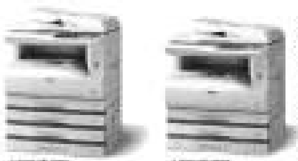
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METRO

UP disowns Malabon water study



WPD warns car owners of modus

MMDA giving former drug dependents a new high

SPORTS

SUDDEN-DEATH PLAYOFF

Delasin tops LPGA tilt in Alabama

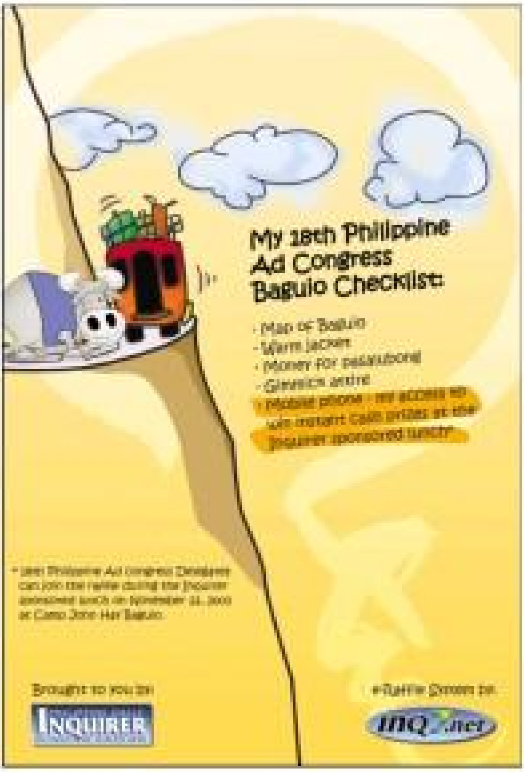




Kin asked taekwondo ass'n to keep jin's death a secret

Bill limiting PBA Fil-Ams filed

Tams forge duel with Knights



No Pacquiao-Barrera rematch, says Hoya



PACQUIAO [illegible]

[illegible]

Hero's welcome awaits Manny

[illegible]

Ubix-Riviera golf on today at Langer

[illegible]



FOILED

[illegible]

Malaysia rules Legend Tee

[illegible]

The brave soul

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

[illegible]

SPORTSWATCH

Toyota returning next year

[illegible]

LGBA 7-stag tilt final leg today

[illegible]

Foreign bets join Cavite tourney

[illegible]

Lagon takes NCA meet limelight

[illegible]

Eastridge hosts KGB gallant

[illegible]



BADMINTON TEAM

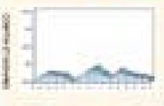
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BUSINESS

DELL

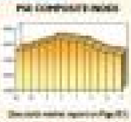
2 banks urged to seek gov't assistance

CURRENCIES



STOCK MARKET

Stocks hit 5-week low



Survey says Filipinos benefit from globalization



2 banks urged to seek . . .



ADDITIONAL ENTITLEMENTS

Air talks with S. Korea set Nov. 27-28 in Davao

By Abigail L. Ho





Philippine Stock Exchange

A good sell of telephone

Mr. Bearbull

Max Nathan

Globe Telecom eyes bigger dividend payout in 2004

By Abigail L. Ho

Disclosures

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JAGUAR

Business

Aboitiz open to settling dispute with Garcias

By Doris C. Dumlao

Local industries urge gov't to step up fight vs smuggling

By Michelle V. Remo

Risky Philippine bonds offer high returns

Benguet eyes Baguio potable water contract

By Christine A. Gaylican

HSBC sees 50% rise in credit cards in '04

By Elena R. Torrijos

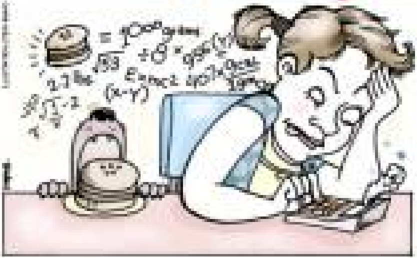
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

C1

LIFESTYLE

Editor: Chelo Banal-Formoso





Calorific facts

Well and Good

Tina Juan

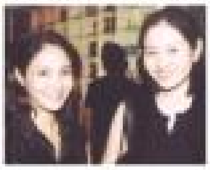


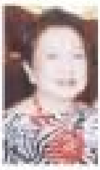
'How many calories do you burn just trying to understand what a calorie is?'

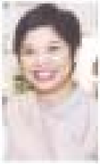






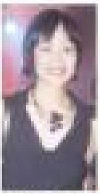


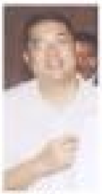




Models, salon fixtures and 'groupies' can't get no satisfaction







WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH









New fragrance

Salon-happy

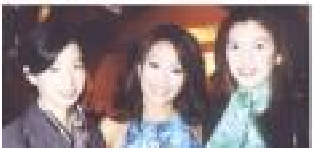
Stoned and happy













EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Bent leg bridge on floor with stability ball





Calorific facts

How are calories measured in food?

How are calories burned during exercise measured?

Cardio equipment

Faith and biology

Affirming the positive

Reader asks about love, free will and karma

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco





Faith and biology

THE GAP is closing.

Inside Out

Cory Quirino



Effects of faith on health

Likelihood of life changes

Enlightened doctor



red